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# Frank Scott – Oral History – 5-5-2002

*Name and spelling?*

Mr. Scott: Frank Scott, Scott.

*Why don't you tell us about your family, when they came to Sebastopol and why?*

Mr. Scott: OK. My father was born in San Francisco, California. My mother was born in Shreveport, Scotland. My father went over in early 1917, I believe. He was in the British Army in World War I. They had a machine shop over there in Scotland where he worked for about three years and his father was there also, my grandfather. I went over there to visit the place and I met some of the people that were familiar with the shop. And also alot of my relatives. I met this old man in a pub, over there, we were having lunch, and so, I asked the owner if I could talk to somebody that knew a lot of history of the place. And so this old gent came out, he was in his 70's and I asked him if he, I mentioned my grandfather's name and he said, "Oh yes, he had two daughters, one was Francis, one was Rita. Francis went to America and Rita went to Australia. I said that was my mother and my aunt. And so it was a small world. I never expected to see anybody over there that knew, cause all my grandfather was a sea captain over there, he went to sea when he was 14 and he was on several old sailing ships. And when he left school, he was looking at one of the ships and he never realized that it was one of the ships that he would command later when he grew up. So there's some interesting history there. And then my father moved from Scotland in 1928 and my mother came along and settled into a ranch just a mile and a half from Sebastopol right across from what's now called Apple Blossom Lane. There's was an apple ranch and actually it started there in 1899, I believe, and my dad's uncle owned the land and then there was another fellow before him. But I can't recall his name, so that would take a little research. And then so my dad worked on the ranch there and my uncle had 20 acres on the other side and my dad had 20 acres on the side by Apple Blossom Lane. So they each owned kind of half of the whole ranch there. And it's still in existence today and my nephew is running it. His name is Dave Hale and sells apples out there to the public.

*Oh, that's the big barn out there?*

Mr. Scott: Yes, the red barn out there. Yes. So he's been able to keep the ranch, going; although the trees are pretty old and we used to have a railroad track that ran right by the house. When I was a kid, I lived up in a smaller house up on a hill before we moved into the big house. I used to go out to the rail road tracks and my parents were always worried that I'd get involved with the train, but I just used to like to look at the old passenger train because it had a little stop there it was called the Dundee Station. When the train disbanded the service, why we kind of kept the old station there for a long time, just as a memento. And everybody knew where it was, and a lot of people would wait in there to catch the train. I believe the train ran all the way down, well it did go to Santa Rosa. It went south too. But I can't recall how far south, but it did go all the way up the Russian River to Duncans Mill. They took a lot of people from San Francisco and some of them obviously must have changed at Sebastopol or some of the connecting routes along the way. My wife, I met her. Her father was the assistant Postmaster here in Sebastopol for years. His name was Ralph Felton. He was involved in the Post Mr. Scott: Office and he was involved in some of the Masons and his wife was in the Eastern Star. She

was in that for a long time. We had. I had a brother and a sister. And my sister is still living at the original ranch out there across from Apple Blossom Lane. It's designated as a historical piece of property now.

*Is that where the station was?*

Mr. Scott: No, it was up in the next place, just above there. That was my uncle's place. So, she's still living there, but the place is kind of deteriorated over the years, but yet they won't tear it down, so I was kind of pleased with that, because I thought it was a beautiful house. It was a big house and everything in the house was antique. Then we moved away from there, why we sold a lot of the antiques cause we didn't have a place to keep em. My brother still got our old car. He lives up in Yreka. It's an old 36 Ford. He fixed it up. We drove it in high school; my dad drove it for a long time. So it was something that was preserved. Then I got interested in aviation. When I was a kid I used to build models. I belong to this aviation historical society in Santa Rosa for about 10 years. I was a charter member. Then I went into the Pacific Coast Air Museum and I'm still in that organization today. But we used to do flying in high school and we had 3 hours of orientation flight. The pilots would take us up and do aerobatics. So we got quite a bit of experience flying in those days. The planes that were flying at that time were all antiques. Today they are all worth quite a bit of money.

*Was that out of the Sebastopol airport?*

Mr. Scott: No, it was out of Coddingtown airport in Santa Rosa. The old Coddingtown airport. I kind of followed aviation. I went in the Navy for four years. I actually was in the Air Force at first, at Hamilton Field, then I joined the Navy and I went down to San Diego for training. I went over seas for 3 ½ years to Japan during the Korean War. I was in the Seabees there. So after, that, after I got out of the service, I went to the junior college at Santa Rosa. I took up some aviation courses there and so I got married to Willow Scott. We've been married for over 40 years and getting along fine right, we still live right here in Sebastopol, right across from the firehouse.

*What schools did you go to?*

Mr. Scott: I went to the elementary school here in Sebastopol. The one that's up on the hill.

*Parkside?*

Mr. Scott: They call it Sebastopol Union Elementary in those days.

*Oh.*

Mr. Scott: A lot of my friends went all through grammar school with them and high school also. Went to Analy High School. Then after that I went to junior college.

*When was your graduating class?*

Mr. Scott: 1915. Then I went to work for Fluor Corporation in Santa Rosa for 22 years. Anything else?

*Is there a teacher that particularly inspired you?*

Mr. Scott: I liked my aviation instructor.

*Sounds like.*

Mr. Scott: That's was the best class I had in high school and it only lasted a couple of years. But we had an ex-B24 pilot that flew in the second war. So we got pretty well acquainted there and learned a lot in that class about aviation. We had a lot of credit lease of engines and so there were two girls in the class I think there were 5 of us. Seven all together. So it was a small group, and yet you learned a lot.

*Small group is nice.*

Mr. Scott: Yes. So I guess I can't think of anything right now that I've missed. Obviously, I missed a lot. I know my uncle had a lot of old antique cars there and I have some photos in here that I used to play around in the cars in those days. They had spoke wheels, wooden spoke wheels on em. They were fun. We learned to drive in a Model T Ford. My brother and I drilled a well for my uncle. We had 3 pedals on the Model T and we used to work the two pedals back and forth. We had a cutting bit on a cable and we ran down 120 feet. So we got lots of water out of that well. That was one thing that stood out in my mind.

*Is your uncle's property still in the family?*

Mr. Scott: Yes. My nephew owns that now. I see, I guess that's pretty much what I remember.

*OK. Thank you.*